

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please change claims 2, 3, 5, 6; 9 through 13; 15, 17;
and 22 through 26 — all to read as follows.

- 1 1. (previously presented) An inkjet device comprising:
2 at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops
3 in a spitting operation;
4 a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and
5 a generally planar shelf mounted for rocking motion
6 between:
7
8 a first position for directly receiving
9 and retaining the ejected ink from
10 the printhead, and
11
12 a second position for transferring the
13 received ink to the spittoon by
14 spilling the received ink from the
15 shelf into the spittoon.

1 2. (currently amended) An inkjet device comprising:
2 at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops
3 in a spitting operation;
4 a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and
5 a substantially noncylindrical temporary spittoon
6 arranged to reciprocate [[move]] between first and second
7 positions, said substantially noncylindrical temporary
8 spittoon being arranged in the first position so that the
9 ink drops are ejected onto a surface of said substantial-
10 ly noncylindrical temporary spittoon, and said substan-
11 tially noncylindrical temporary spittoon being further
12 arranged to transfer the ink to the spittoon when in the
13 second position;
14 wherein the surface of the temporary spittoon is
15 approximately 1 mm to 10 mm from the printhead when the
16 temporary spittoon is in the first position.

1 3. (currently amended) A device according to claim 2,
2 wherein:
3 said temporary spittoon is located such that the
4 spitting distance is approximately 6 mm from said
5 printhead when said temporary spittoon is in said first
6 position; and
7 reciprocation of the shuttle is substantially
8 rectilinear.

1 4. (previously presented) A device according to claim
2 1, wherein:
3 the shelf is substantially horizontal when in the
4 first position.

1 5. (currently amended) An inkjet device comprising:
2 at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops
3 in a spitting operation;
4 a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and
5 a substantially noncylindrical temporary spittoon
6 arranged to move between first and second positions, said
7 temporary spittoon being arranged in the first position
8 so that the ink drops are ejected onto a surface of said
9 temporary spittoon, and said temporary spittoon being
10 further arranged to transfer the ink to the spittoon when
11 in the second position;
12 wherein the temporary spittoon is mounted on a
13 shuttle, said shuttle being arranged to move the tempo-
14 rary spittoon between the first and second positions.

1 6. (currently amended) A device according to claim 5,
2 wherein:
3 the temporary spittoon is arranged to be oriented in
4 a first orientation when in the first position and in a
5 second orientation different from the first orientation
6 when positioned in the second position, such that when
7 positioned in the second position the temporary spittoon
8 is arranged to transfer the ink from the spittoon surface
9 by gravity; and
10 motion of the shuttle is reciprocating.

1 7. (previously presented) An inkjet device comprising:
2 at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops
3 in a spitting operation;
4 a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and
5 a temporary spittoon arranged to move between first
6 and second positions, said temporary spittoon being
7 arranged in the first position so that the ink drops are
8 ejected onto a surface of said temporary spittoon, and
9 said temporary spittoon being further arranged to trans-
10 fer the ink to the spittoon when in the second position;
11 wherein the temporary spittoon is mounted on a
12 shuttle, said shuttle being arranged to move the tempo-
13 rary spittoon between the first and second positions;
14 the temporary spittoon is arranged to be oriented in
15 a first orientation when in the first position and in a
16 second orientation different from the first orientation
17 when positioned in the second position, such that when
18 positioned in the second position the temporary spittoon
19 is arranged to transfer the ink from the spittoon surface
20 by gravity; and
21 the temporary spittoon is rotatably mounted to the
22 shuttle and arranged to pivot relative to the shuttle be-
23 tween the first and second orientations.

1 8. (previously presented) A device according to claim
2 7, wherein:
3 the temporary spittoon is arranged to rotate rela-
4 tive to the shuttle under the action of one or more cam
5 surfaces.

1 9. (currently amended) An inkjet device comprising:
2 at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops
3 in a spitting operation;
4 a spittoon arranged to store said ejected ink;
5 a substantially noncylindrical temporary spittoon
6 arranged to move along a substantially linear path be-
7 tween first and second positions, said temporary spittoon
8 being arranged in the first position so that the ink
9 drops are ejected onto a surface of the temporary spit-
10 toon, and said temporary spittoon being further arranged
11 to transfer the ink to the spittoon when in the second
12 position; and wherein:
13 the surface of the temporary spittoon is substan-
14 tially horizontal when the temporary spittoon is in the
15 first position;
16 the temporary spittoon is mounted on a shuttle, the
17 shuttle being arranged to move the temporary spittoon
18 between the first and second positions; and
19 the temporary spittoon is arranged to be oriented in
20 a first orientation when in the first position and in a
21 second orientation different from the first orientation
22 when positioned in the second position, such that when
23 positioned in the second position the temporary spittoon
24 is arranged to transfer the ink on the spittoon surface
25 under gravity; and
26 the temporary spittoon comprises a flexible material
27 fixedly mounted to the shuttle, the temporary spittoon
28 being arranged to bend or deform between the first and
29 second orientations.

1 10. (currently amended) A device according to claim 9,
2 wherein:
3 said temporary spittoon is arranged to bend or de-
4 form under the action of one or more cam surfaces; and
5 motion of the shuttle along the substantially linear
6 path is reciprocating.

1 11. (currently amended) A device according to claim 10,
2 wherein:
3 said shuttle is further arranged to urge said tem-
4 porary spittoon against a further surface when said
5 temporary spittoon is approximately located in said
6 second position, forcing said ink from said temporary
7 spittoon surface.

1 12. (currently amended) A device according to claim 11,
2 wherein:
3 said surface of said temporary spittoon is manufac-
4 tured from a plastics material.

1 13. (currently amended) A device according to claim 11,
2 wherein:
3 said surface of said temporary spittoon is manufac-
4 tured from a foam material.

1 14. (previously presented) An inkjet device comprising:
2 at least one printhead arranged to eject ink drops
3 in a spitting operation;
4 a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink;
5 a temporary spittoon arranged to move between first
6 and second positions, said temporary spittoon being
7 arranged in the first position so that the ink drops are
8 ejected onto a surface of the temporary spittoon, and
9 said temporary spittoon being further arranged to trans-
10 fer the ink to the spittoon when in the second position;
11 wherein the surface of the temporary spittoon is
12 substantially horizontal when the temporary spittoon is
13 in the first position; and
14 wherein the temporary spittoon is mounted on a
15 shuttle, said shuttle being arranged to move the tempo-
16 rary spittoon between the first and second positions; and
17 a printhead servicing element comprising a cap or a
18 wiper arranged to be movable between a non-active posi-
19 tion distant from the printhead and an active position
20 adjacent to the printhead;
21 wherein the movement of the temporary spittoon is
22 linked to that of the servicing element so that the tem-
23 porary spittoon is arranged to be in the first position
24 when the servicing element is in the non-active position
25 and to be in the second position when the servicing ele-
26 ment is in active position.

1 15. (currently amended) A device according to claim
2 14, wherein:
3 said active position of said servicing element
4 corresponds to said first position of said temporary
5 spittoon.

16. (canceled)

1 17. (currently amended) A device according to claim
2 16, wherein:
3 said temporary spittoon further comprises one or
4 more holes, arranged such that ink ejected by one or more
5 of said pens may pass directly to a non-temporary
6 spittoon.

18. (canceled)

1 19. (previously presented) A device according to claim
2 5, wherein:
3 the device is arranged so that in the second posi-
4 tion the temporary spittoon is located substantially in
5 contact with the spittoon or ink stored therein, the
6 temporary spittoon being adapted so that the ink on the
7 temporary spittoon surface is able to flow from the tem-
8 porary spittoon to the spittoon.

1 20. (previously presented) A device according to claim
2 5, wherein:

3 the temporary spittoon comprises a porous body adap-
4 ted to allow the ink on the temporary spittoon surface to
5 flow through the temporary spittoon to the spittoon.

1 21. (canceled)

1 22. (currently amended) An inkjet printhead servicing
2 assembly comprising:

3 a spittoon arranged to store ink ejected by an ink-
4 jet printhead in a spitting operation; and

5 a substantially noncylindrical spitting shelf, roc-
6 kable in reciprocation along a substantially linear path
7 between:

8

9 a first position for directly receiving
10 ink drops ejected by the printhead in
11 a spitting operation, and

12

13 a second position for pouring the received
14 ink off the shelf into the spittoon.

1 23. (currently amended) An inkjet device comprising:
2 at least one print head arranged to eject ink drops
3 in a spitting operation;
4 a spittoon arranged to store the ejected ink; and
5 a temporary ink receiver arranged and powered to
6 reciprocate [[move]] between:
7
8 a first position in relatively closer
9 proximity to a nozzle plate of the
10 printhead, to intercept ink with
11 minimal formation of aerosol; and
12
13 a second position relatively more distant
14 from the nozzle plate to allow
15 capping or wiping of the nozzle
16 plate.

1 24. (currently amended) An inkjet printhead servicing
2 assembly comprising:
3 a spitting surface;
4 a cap assembly;
5 a reciprocating shuttle arranged to move along a
6 generally rectilinear path between first and second
7 positions and to actuate the spitting surface and the cap
8 assembly;

9 the servicing assembly being arranged so that:

10

11 when the shuttle is in the first position
12 the cap assembly is located distant
13 to a nozzle plate of the printhead
14 and the spitting surface is located
15 in close proximity to the nozzle
16 plate so that ink ejected from the
17 nozzle plate during a spitting
18 routine is ejected onto the spitting
19 surface; and

20

21 when the shuttle is in the second position
22 the cap assembly substantially caps
23 the nozzle plate and the spitting
24 surface is located in a position such
25 that the ink ejected onto the spit-
26 ting surface is transferable under
27 gravity to a permanent ink storage
28 container.

1 25. (previously presented) A method of servicing an
2 inkjet printhead with a servicing assembly; said ser-
3 vicing assembly comprising a spittoon arranged to store
4 ink ejected by said inkjet printhead in a spitting opera-
5 tion, and a generally planar spitting surface; said
6 method comprising the steps of:

7 locating the spitting surface in a first position
8 relatively closer to the printhead and generally hori-
9 zontal so that drops ejected by the inkjet printhead in a
10 spitting operation are ejected onto the spitting surface
11 and generally are retained thereon;

12 translating the spitting surface to a second posi-
13 tion relatively more remote from the printhead, allowing
14 clearance for printhead wiping or capping, and at the
15 second position inclining the generally planar spitting
16 surface to discharge the retained into the spittoon.

1 26. (currently amended) A method of servicing an inkjet
2 printhead with a servicing assembly; said servicing as-
3 sembly comprising a spittoon arranged to store ink ejec-
4 ted by said inkjet printhead in a spitting operation, and
5 a spitting surface; said method comprising the steps of:

6 locating the spitting surface in a first position
7 such that drops ejected by the inkjet printhead in a
8 spitting operation are ejected onto the spitting surface;

9 moving the spitting surface along a substantially
10 rectilinear path to a second position such that the ejec-
11 ted drops may be transferred to the spittoon; and

12 capping or wiping the printhead when the spitting
13 surface is in the second position.

1 27. (previously presented) The device of claim 1,
2 wherein:
3 the shelf is substantially rigid.

1 28. (previously presented) The device of claim 5,
2 wherein:
3 the shuttle is arranged for substantially linear
4 translation, exclusively.

1 29. (previously presented) The device of claim 22,
2 wherein:
3 the shelf is substantially rigid.